GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1697
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had allotted 16.17 hectare of forest land against the original demand of 61.2 hectares for laying Bagha-Chitoani Railway line in 1990, resulting in blocking the water flow of Rahva and Koteriva streams whereby 1691 hectare of forest land continues to remain under 6 to 7 feet deep water;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar originally objected for the same and has been constantly taking up the issue with his Ministry demanding Rs.75.35 lakhs from Railway Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action so far taken by his Ministry to resolve this issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) to (c) As recommended by the Government of Bihar, the Central Government has granted in-principle approval with certain stipulated conditions for diversion of 61.17 ha. of forest land for construction of Chhitauni- Bagha-Rail-cum-road link in West Champaran District of Bihar on 21-1-1992. The State Government had submitted the compliance report of the stipulated conditions on 10-8-1992. In the compliance report, the State Government had intimated that the Department of Water Resources of the State has conveyed that Government of Bihar will bear the cost of its share for flood control measures and for control of soil erosion arising due to the construction of Rail-cum-road-bridge. In view of the said compliance report, the Central Government had issued formal approval to the project under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and therefore, there was no commitment made by Government of India in this regard.